

29 November 1971

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Text of CAS/Saigon [redacted] Cable, Dated

25X1

REFERENCE: [redacted] Saigon [redacted] Cable,  
Dated 27 November 1971 [redacted]

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"1. CAS Station Chief discussed ref with Ambassador Bunker morning  
28 November. Ambassador agreed to Station Chief's suggestion that  
Station proceed along following conversational guidelines during anticipated  
telephone contact with [redacted] intermediary 4 December:

"Quote: (Note: Following exchange of usual bona fides  
and amenities, it is important that we attempt to get the  
initiative in the conversation and stress the following):

"A. Have you discussed our proposal of 27 November  
[redacted] and if so do you have an  
answer and any information for us?

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"(Note: It is possible that our one for one exchange of  
[redacted] others" [redacted] will have been  
accepted and therefore it will not be necessary to  
cover all the points below. However, if the caller  
returns to his normal pattern then we must interrupt  
with the following):

25X1

"B. Please let me talk repeat please let me talk!  
We have spent considerable time reviewing our con-  
versation of 27 November and we would like to make  
the following points:

DPMO review completed.

NSC review completed

State Dept. review completed

SECRET [redacted]

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"1) We are prepared to release [redacted] on 10 December repeat 10 December at 1600 hours repeat 1600 hours at Ta Gang Robon in exchange for [redacted] [redacted] "others" you mentioned. Are you prepared to go ahead with this exchange on 10 December?

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"2) When we have completed this first step on 10 December, which we are sure you will recognize as a positive gesture of sincerity by both sides, we will then work on the necessary preparations for an additional secret exchange on 13 December which will be of interest to both sides.

"3) If you have already received a list of Americans, foreigners and Vietnamese officers [redacted]

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[redacted] as we requested, you should give this list to [redacted] him on 10 December. This will make things move faster and will assist us in working out the details for an exchange on 13 December [redacted]

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[redacted] In this connection you should remember that there are also other individuals in custody in South Vietnam who we are sure you are interested in exchanging. [redacted]

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"(Note: If the caller tries to interrupt he should be asked politely but firmly to listen for the moment so that our side can make its views known.)

"4) In your call of 27 October you kept referring to an agreement relating to the release of Sgt. John Sexton, Jr. We would like to make it clear that you released Sgt. Sexton on your own initiative without giving us any forewarning or without any prior discussions, notifications or agreements. We believe it is important that you recognize that the release of Sgt. Sexton was the beginning repeat beginning of this series of secret exchanges but it in no way represents any part of an agreement reached in advance. Do you understand? Good.

25X1

SECRET/

We suggest therefore in order to have sincerity on both sides we must start from the same point, therefore, we recommend that you consider our proposals as we put them forth. We in turn will carefully study each of your proposals and when these are sound we will know what to do. We will act promptly and with sincerity. Do you understand?

25X1 "(Note: At this point the caller will undoubtedly go into his  
25X1 routine which most likely will be laced with words such as  
25X1 "agreements, " "promises, etc., etc." Therefore, without  
25X1 being rude or shutting him off we will listen until we can logically  
25X1 interrupt to re-emphasize that the desired exchanges cannot  
25X1 take place unless we are on common ground from the outset.  
25X1 It is hoped that this will clarify why the other side keeps referring  
25X1 to an agreement [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted] we will refer to "one step  
25X1 at a time." This will convey that we are not ruling out [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted] the exchange under discussion for  
25X1 10 December, [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted]

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SECRET/